Asks Park Facilities For Negro Citizens

AUG 25 1941

Editor, The Post:

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"One-third of the population of our city are Negroes. These Negro citizens bear their share of the tax burden in relation to their opportunities for profitable employment. Yet they are totally barred from access to the city's public recreational facilities — parks, playgrounds, and swimming pools.

"There are only unpaved streets where Negro children play the all-American game of baseball. They hardly have a decently equipped playground on which to learn good citizenship through good sportsmanship.

"On a hot, sweltering day there is not a city swimming pool in Birmingham open to Negro youth and their elders. On a Sunday evening, there is not a city park in which a visiting Negro soldier (on leave from camps where they are training to defend their country by defeating Hitler and to bring about human decency abroad) might sit and chat with a friend!

"We, and a great majority of Birmingham citizens would have these cruel and wasteful statutes which dictate "equal but separate accommodations for Negroes" struck from the city code but we are fully aware of the fact that the present members of the City Commission are enjoined to their exact enforcement.

"Therefore, basing our petition upon the segregation law as it stands, we call for its enforcement in respect to the equalization of public recreational facilities for Negroes. We request the immediate allocation of necessary funds for, (1) Constructing swimming pools for Negroes, (2) the opening of city parks to Negroes (and at least the one between 16th and 17th-sts, and between Fifth and Sixth-avs) which lie in the heart of the Negro neighborhood, and (3) an adequate and proportionate number of neighborhood playgrounds and community centers.

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ESTHER V. COOPER,
Administrative Secretary,
Southern Negro Youth Congress."

Birmingham Post, AUG 25 1941

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Age-Herald
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This will be the first Negro park owned by the city, Mayor Green said. He said members of the Park Board long have wanted to obtain a park for Negroes. Several playgrounds have been operated for them on leased property.

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Park Grass Authorized

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The park site, which is a city block containing approximately 4½ acres, will be given to the city by the Board of Education, Mayor Green informed the Park Board. It is located on the north side of Sixth Avenue, South, between Fifth and Sixth Streets.

Agreement that the land will be donated was reached at a conference a few days ago between the City Commission and the Board of Education. Mayor Green said the formal transfer probably will be authorized by the Board of Education at its next meeting and only the actual formalities of transfer will remain to be handled.

Resolutions thanking the Board of Education for the gift were adopted by the Park Board and Secretary F. G. Swaim was instructed to send a copy to the Board of Education.

Mayor Green declared that the park will be the first city-owned Negro park. He said the Park Board long has wished to purchase a park for Negroes but money has not been available. He pointed out that most of the white parks of the city were donated by land companies and others. He declared he regards the new Negro park as a step in the right direction. He said that experience has shown that where parks and recreation facilities are available crime has decreased.

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Birmingham Ala. Age-Herald
November 27, 1941

NEW NEGRO PARK NAMED BY BOARD

Colored Memorial Park was selected by the Park Board Wednesday as the name for Birmingham's first city-owned Negro park. Several other proposed names were discussed before the board unanimously adopted the resolution naming the park.

Mrs. Charles J. Sharp suggested the name. She reported that she had discussed the matter with several representative Negro groups, and said most of these had favored the name selected by the board.

The new park, which is located on Sixth Avenue, South, between Fifth and Sixth Streets, was donated to the city by the Board of Education for park purposes.

50-1941 D.C.

Washington Post
Washington, D. C.

Fearless swimmers test the waters of the reflecting pool preparatory to the swimming party to be held there today

Panama City, Fla., Herald
May 16, 1941

Brown's Beach To Be Opened For Negroes

The public has been invited to attend the official opening of Brown's Beach, especially designated for use of colored people, with the opening set for Sunday, according to information supplied by Roosevelt McBride, manager.

The opening will feature a free fish fry and a baseball game between the Panama City and Donaldsonville, Georgia, colored teams.

Brown's Beach is about seven miles west of Panama City just off the coastal highway.

Pensacola, Fla. Journal
July 13, 1941

Negro Bathing Beach

SUGGESTION of L. S. Brown, in a recent letter to the News-Journal of the need for a bathing beach for Negroes, shows a commendable consideration for our large Negro population and its lack of an appropriate place of its own for outdoor recreation on the waterfront.

Negroes have been wont to bathe in the bay at the foot of Ninth avenue, but this is not a desirable location as storm and sewer drains empty there. Although there probably is no danger from sewage due to the operation of the disposal plant, some better and more attractive place should be developed.

The difficulty is that practically all of the waterfront property is being held for white development and although a Negro resort probably would pay dividends, no one wants to risk depreciation of nearby property.

Santa Rosa island, with its nearly fifty miles of Gulf frontage, should furnish some spot for Negroes, but most of the island is inaccessible and the two resorts at the extremities naturally are reserved for white patrons. As the government develops the island, however, provision should be made for a Negro beach. If wharfing facilities were available it would be possible to operate a boat line to such a Negro resort so that there would be no conflicts between Negroes and whites in transportation to or occupancy of the beach.

With the vast waterfrontage in the vicinity of Pensacola, it would seem that there could be some spot exclusively for Negroes. They certainly are entitled to such consideration.

St. Petersburg, Fla., Times
July 9, 1941

May Develop Negro Park

At council's suggestion, Mayor McCutcheon said he would later name a special committee to consider requests for the development of Melrose park in the southside negro area for the exclusive use of negroes for park purposes.

New Smyrna, Fla. News
September 4, 1941

NEGRO PROJECT LACKS APPROVAL BY C OF C HERE

President Denies Report Appearing in Daytona Beach Newspaper

PROTESTS NUMEROUS

John S. Duss, Jr., president of the New Smyrna Beach Chamber of Commerce, today vigorously denied reports that the local trade body had approved a project setting up a resort for Negroes on the beach three miles south of New Smyrna Beach.

The report, appearing in a Daytona Beach afternoon newspaper, stated that Mary McLeod Bethune, president of the Bethune-Cookman College for Colored in Daytona Beach, said the Chamber of Commerce of New Smyrna Beach had given its approval to the project.

Numerous protests from local citizens arose when the proposed project was first made public. While the protests did not disapprove of a vacation spot for the colored people, they did voice the belief that the resort should not be in the immediate vicinity of New Smyrna Beach which, it is expected, soon will develop into one of Florida's most popular Summer and Winter resort centers.

"The Chamber of Commerce has never approved a project of real estate development of any kind as a matter of policy," Duss stated.

Duss also wrote to the Daytona Beach newspaper as follows:

"A news item, entitled 'Beach Resort for Negroes,' on page 4 of your issue dated September 2, 1941, contained the following statement: 'Pres. Bethune said the chamber of commerce of New Smyrna Beach had given approval to the project.'

"The New Smyrna Beach Chamber of Commerce has never had any communication, inquiry or dealinf from or with anyone whatsoever, in connection with the above referred to project. Therefore, such approval has not been sought, and it follows naturally that such reported approval has not been given by our organization

"I might add that it is not the policy of the New Smyrna Beach Chamber of Commerce to approve real estate developments or projetcs."

According to reports, a committee made up of representative Negroes from all over the country is now completing plans for the colony. D. F. Fuquay, Daytona Beach, has sold the two and a half mile site, that runs from the ocean to the river, to the group, which owns part of it outright and has an option on the rest.

Roads, buildings and other property are to be developed, according to reports.

Jacksonville, Fla., Times-Union
October 17, 1941

Wilder Park Title Question Delaying Project for Negroes

Whether the Federal Government will be able to spend $45,000 in the construction of a community center in Wilder Park for the use of negro citizens rests upon the question of whether the city can legally transfer title to a part of the park area for that purpose.

Nathan L. Mallison and George G. Robinson appeared yesterday afternon before the commission to ask that a fee simple title be given the government so that work on the project can proceed.

The question of whether title to the property has been vested in the city for park purposes only was raised and City Attorney Austin Miller was asked for an opinion.

If the city's title has no reverter clause, it may not be able to comply with the government's request. Mallison said 69 cities had given similar titles to property for such purposes.

Miami, Fla. Herald
October 26, 1941

To be considered: $1,000 for Little River park; $1,000 for Coconut Grove negro park; $1,200 for Fern Isle; $5,104.80 for Stadium bleachers; $225, taxes, Police Benevolent Association; $1,039.95, for American Legion park—salary of supervisor; $1,200 for construction of sailboat docks . . . A total of $10,769.75 of park expenditures set up for consideration, leaving a balance of $17,786.29 . . . Nowhere is the park sponsored by the association a beneficiary, either in disbursement or commitments. It is not even under consideration . . . The people out there would like the grounds at least sodded so their children would have a place to play . . . They wonder why they can't get into the charmed circle.

Tampa, Fla. Tribune
December 18, 1941

Mayor Wants Negro Playground Area Program in Budget

Mayor Chancey asked the board of aldermen yesterday to call in the board of public recreation and the zoning commission to work out a play area program for Negroes, on which work should be started in the next budget year.

The city has done much in recent years to improve parks and playgrounds for white children, but little so far for Negroes. The recreation board protested recently that two sand lots that had been used as Negro playgrounds had been taken for other purposes.

Mayor Chancey's request was prompted by an appeal by the Tampa Urban league and other organizations to set aside Oak park and the Oak Park pool as a Negro recreation ground.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okl.

By Freddye Harper-Williams

For Want of Parks—Your Kids and Mine Go to The Dogs

Negroes in Oklahoma City should let up a howl that would reverberate through the corridors of the City Hall demanding proper recreational facilities for their use. We have Tolan park, serving the West Side of Oklahoma City's Negro population. It is beautiful and the only place for Negroes that can be truthfully called a park. Booker Washington "park" is a farce. Oil wells have reared their ugly heads and marred what little beauty there was there. The playgrounds serve a need, with their wading pools, but they are not adequate.

The welfare of the small child up to twelve years of age has been looked after in regard to recreational facilities. The swings, slides, sand piles, teeter-teeters, merry-go-rounds and wading pools provide no end of wholesome, body-developing play under expert supervision, but the Negro child in his teens can go to the dogs as far as Oklahoma City's park program is concerned.

And that is what they are doing—going to the dogs! Some of them have gone into eternity through the miserly negligence of the City Fathers in providing them recreation.

What would a 14-year-old kid look like in that wading pool at Booker Washington park? What about the seventeen- and eighteen-year-olds? What about the grown-ups who want to swim? Some have said, "We are not bothered about the big ones; we want to take care of the little child first."

Statistics of juvenile courts show that it is the child approaching and in his early teens that are premature criminals. Where the lack of recreational opportunities for the teen-age child is prevalent, crime breeds. The "gang" flourishes in the alleys and the street. They can't be bothered playing around with the smaller kids; they are "he-men" and can't be bothered with the "small fry" in the wading pools, so they seek an outlet in crime.

Why don't we have a swimming pool for larger children and adults? The whites have beautiful Northeast Lake in scenic Lincoln Park, and several others. On Thursdays when the maids and chauffeurs are off duty, Negroes may go to Lincoln Park and peep at the animals, but just let one try to stick a foot into Northeast Lake!

If it is necessary for large white children and white adults to have municipally owned swimming pools, it is necessary for Negroes.

Hassman Park, just east of Edwards' Addition, where over fifty Negro families live in modern homes, is lying idle. Your city council refused to give it to you for a park because a sparsely-settled white residential area lay between Hassman Park and the Negro settlement of the east side. Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Edwards removed all grounds for that flimsy excuse when they started building homes for Negroes just west of Hassman Park. Day's Hassman Addition, directly west of the proposed park site, puts Negroes on all sides of the desired place, but nothing is being done.

Within the past few days two Negro children lost their lives by drowning. One little girl sought her recreation in the muddy waters of the Canadian river and lost her life, where no life guard was available to save her. A 1941 graduate of Douglass high school, in the company of a few of his fellow football players, went almost to Witcher and paid 50c for the privilege of swimming in a cheap commercial pool and was drowned. There was no one to save him when he lost control in the waters and his heart-broken mother sadly tells of her plans to send him to college in the fall, but now all hope is lost.

Don't you see that something must be done about this need? Don't you, and you, and you realize that more and more children will perish if we do not get a swimming pool with a life guard where these children and grown-ups may engage in the pleasant summer pastime?

The entire city should rise in protest of the unjust distribution of the funds for the local park program. The whites have more parks and to spare for their children, while Negroes have received a mere pittance.

That Negroes in Oklahoma City will stand together has been proved by the manner in which they stood solidly in the Chamber of Commerce drive for more and better jobs for Negroes. An organization which has the welfare of the children and grown-ups at heart, could start this drive for more and better recreational facilities and the city population would work for it with one accord. We can't sit down and do nothing and then wonder why our children go to the dogs. The reason is obvious. Poor housing conditions, where as many as five families live in shanties on one lot; where heat and filtth abide, and aggravated by poor recreational facilities, breed crime and delinquency as surely as night follows day.

We must save our children by demanding their share of the tax money spent for parks.

Atlanta, Ga. Constitution
June 8, 1941

Playgrounds To Open Here Tomorrow

Special Events To Be Held Weekly Through August 30.

Summer activities at the 17 supervised playgrounds for white children and nine areas for Negro children, located in various sections of the city will begin tomorrow with an intensive and varied program of special events to be held each week through August 30.

Next week is called "Know Your Community Week," to be followed by Safety Week, Parents' Week and Patriotic Week. Other weeks have been designated as Nature, Sports, Music and Drama, Lantern Fete, Track and Field, Hobby, Folk Dance and Sports Fiesta Weeks.

Routine playground activities will include: Softball, paddle tennis, box hockey, volley ball, horseshoe, jump rope, singing games, mass games, apparatus and free play.

League To Open.

The sandlot baseball leagues will open Monday at 5:30 o'clock in Piedmont park. Major Trammell Scott, president of the Southern League, park officials and others will participate in the festivities. Two veteran sandlot teams, the Riverside Hornets and Sylvan Hills, will clash in the opening game.

Inter-playground softball leagues will be organized, for the first time this year, for both boys and girls. The leagues will be set up on a sectional plan to minimize travel as much as possible.

Hike-bike travel clubs, a new program for hikers and bicycle riders, will be inaugurated and is designed to provide opportunities for boys and girls of 14 years and up to travel in groups as hikers or bikers on day and over-night camping trips. A special bulletin, giving complete details about the plan may be secured at the Recreation Office upon request.

The summer activity program is operated by the recreation division of the City Park Department and the recreation division of the WPA community service program. The play areas will be open from 9 to 12 in the mornings and 2:30 to 7 in the afternoons on week days and 9 to 12 on Saturday mornings. The playgrounds to be under supervision are as follows: In the northwest section, Maddox park, Goldsmith school, Techwood and Clark Howell Homes; in the northeast, McClatchey park, Morningside school, Smillie school, Forrest Avenue school, Calhoun school, Bass and Moreland schools; in the southeast, Bessie Branham park and James L. Key school and in the southwest section, Adair park, Georgia Avenue school, Joe Brown school and Howell park.

Play areas for Negro children are located at Washington park, Gray street, Ware, D. T. Howard, Crogman and Johnson schools, University and John Hope Homes and Lyons Avenue Play street.

Americus, Ga., Recorder
September 19, 1941

NEGROES SEEK PLAY CENTER

Would Reduce Crime In Americus

An appeal for help in construction of a Recreational Center for negro youths was made to city council this morning by a delegation of colored men.

Pointing out that the lack of a gymnasium and wholesome recreational facilities is driving the young negroes into crime and into the Recorder's court, spokesmen for the group pledged the cooperation of the colored people of Americus in raising funds to erect a building.

"A good morale is needed just as much at home as it is in Army camps for national defense," the negroes told the city council.

They said they could obtain N. Y. A. labor to erect the building on the Staley High campus.

Two years ago council donated an abandoned boys' dormitory on Staley campus for use in constructing a Recreational Center for negroes, provided N. Y. A. aid could be obtained. No progress has been made on the project during these two years.

The fire chief has condemned the dormitory as a fire hazard, and it must be torn down.

Members of council agreed with the colored delegation on the need for a Recreational Center for negro youths, but said the city could not donate funds, in addition to the old dormitory lumber, at the present time. Members of council said the city would be glad to co-operate by sponsoring the building as a government-aid project, provided the city, itself, did not have to put up the money.

Leading in the campaign to erect a Recreational Center for negro youths, the following signed the resolution asking council for aid: J. D. Anderson, S. M. Weston, W. R. Burleigh, J. H. Henderson, H. L. Balcom, John Phillip, E. Stallworth and N. M. Carter.

Macon, Ga., News
October 4, 1941

Dublin Solves a Problem

It's really a shame that the pompous, blue-nosed Yankees who are forever shouting and scribbling about the poor, oppressed Southern Negro cannot be brought down to Dublin.

For Dublin is solving the problem of Negro recreational facilities with an ease of ingenuity of which some of its larger neighbors might well be envious.

The Chamber of Commerce has donated thirty acres of dry well-timbered bluff lands along the Oconee river and thereon the Negroes themselves are building a recreational center calculated to be the finest of such in this section.

A swimming pool 100 by 60 feet has been completed, assembly halls, canning and vocational buildings, and cabins for student vacationers are under construction.

When finished, the recreational center will attract Negroes from throughout the state and will provide healthy, wholesome recreation for many who have been neglected before.

By such measures is Georgia marching ahead in her fight to provide a break for the black man . . . And that is as it should be.

50-1941

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
June 15, 1941

Park Body Pushing Negro Play Center

Commission Members Hopeful Wading Pool May Be Built This Center—Funds From Sunday Shows and From Baseball Game Will Aid in Project.

Confidence that the Negro recreation center planned for a tract of land at the rear of the Thompson orphanage property and facing on Pearl street in the Brooklyn section will materialize was expressed yesterday as the Charlotte park and recreation commission continued study of the tentative plans.

John R. Pender, a member of the Charlotte parks and recreation commission, is heading up the preliminary work for the commission and commission members are hopeful that the first unit of the center, a wading pool tentatively planned to be 80 by 40 feet, can be built this summer.

The entire project, it was emphasized by a member of the commission, is still only in the stage of planning. Development will depend upon the money that may be made available. It is hoped that the wading pool can be constructed with funds given the commission by Charlotte theatres from the revenue received during the first two legalized Sunday showings.

HORNETS PROMISE AID

The Charlotte baseball club, too, it was revealed, has promised to donate the proceeds from one of the baseball games played here, though it will be a week-day game since the league rules forbid the contribution of funds from Sunday games, it was explained by this commissioner.

The Thompson orphanage owns a tract of seven or eight acres that would be developed as a Negro recreation center, and the commission hopes to be able to obtain this property for that purpose. On it would be constructed the wading pool and later a swimming pool, bathhouses and tennis courts. Immediately across the creek from this property is a tract that the commission would also like to obtain as the site for a baseball field, it was pointed out.

FACES NEGRO SECTION

Use of the property as a Negro recreation center would in no way interfere with the orphanage, it was pointed out, since the property is a considerable distance from the orphange and faces upon a street on which Negroes live.

The fact that the property is near the center of a section in which perhaps two-thirds of the city's Negro population live makes it all the more advantogeously situated for a Negro recreational center, it was pointed out. Many more Negroes would be served conveniently at this point than they would out in the Biddleville section, the commission believes, and the Negroes living in this area are more thickly settled and need recreational facilities more than do those of the Johnson Smith university community.

The new commission, led by its aggressive and enthusiactic chairman, Charles H. Stone, is determined to begin as quickly as possible the putting into effect of some such plan to afford recerational facilities for the Negroes, who have been faring even worse than the white population.

Charlotte N. C. Observer
June 16, 1941

PARKS FOR NEGROES.

The new Park and Recreation Commission does well to look at once into the feasibility of the establishment of playing grounds for the Negro youth as among its first and primary projects.

This is a municipal obligation in which the community has been all too long negligent and recreant.

The decision of the newly-named commissioners, therefore, to see what can be done immediately with this duty is praiseworthy and we are sure it will meet with the favor of the people generally.

NORTH CAROLINA

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
June 20, 1941

NEGRO CENTER PLAN DEFERRED

Decision On Orphanage Property Will Not Be Made Until Next January.

The Charlotte Park and Recreation commission will postpone its efforts to establish a Negro recreational center in time for use of the center during the summer months, it was forecast last night by John R. Pender, a member of that body, after the board managers of the Thompson orphanage deferred action on the commission's request that the orphanage sell or lease a small tract in the rear of its property for the Negro center.

Mr. Pender, with Marvin Ray, recreation superintendent, appeared before the orphanage's board of managers and made the formal request for the right to acquire the property, which fronts on Pearl street in the center of the Brooklyn section, in which the commission members estimate perhaps two-thirds of the city's Negro population lives.

The board, while appearing to look upon the request favorably, voted to refer it to the executive committee, of which Hamilton C. Jones of Charlotte is chairman, with instructions to consider the request and make recommendations to the board at its meeting in January. For that reason it will be impossible for the Park and Recreation commission to make any plans for the development of such a center until after the orphanage board has acted on the request in January, Mr. Pender pointed out.

Charlotte, N. C. News
June 11, 1941

Park Board To Inspect Location

May Establish Negro Center

Site of a proposed Negro recreational center off Pearl Street, in the heart of the Brooklyn section of the city, was to be inspected by members of the Park and Recreation Commission late today.

Proposal for establishment of a recreational center at this location was considered by the new Park Board at a meeting yesterday afternoon and decision was reached then to inspect the property this afternoon.

CIVITANS AID

The Charlotte Civitan Club, which recently launched a Boys Club program for teen age Negro youths, has officially offered its co-operation to the Park Board and will work with the Commission in development of plans at this site. The committee from the club, of which Dr. J. Lester Ranson is chairman, is hopeful that the activities of the club, now located in the Bethlehem House at Third and Caldwell Street, may be housed in a special building and plans for construction of such a building on the suggested site are being investigated.

At yesterday afternoon's session, the Summer recreational program at all parks and playgrounds, which will begin next Monday, was approved. Marvin Ray, recreation superintendent, submitted a detailed report of activities to familiarize the new members with the work.

Charlotte N. C. Observer
November 8, 1941

NEED OF NEGRO PARK CONCEDED

Flack Asks Data On Proposed Parkway Through Thompson Orphanage Property.

Need of park facilities for Charlotte's 30,000 Negroes was recognized yesterday by City Manager R. W. Flack, who declared that lack of playground space in the colored areas undoubtedly contributes to Negro juvenile delinquency and the city's overly-high rate of race murders.

Back from a look-see at the municipal park syste mwith Parks Superintendent J. Marvin Ray, the city manager said that he was "impressed by the job that's been done on so little money," but indicated that some provision for additional Negro park facilities is desirable.

Immediately, to City Engineer Lloyd Ross, went a memo requesting preparation of data concerning proposed construction of a road through the Thompson Orphanage property off East Fourth street—a project advocated by park commissioners as the most feasible solution to the need for Negro playgrounds.

In line with present plans the projected artery would be developed into a city parkway extending from East Fourth street through the orphanage lands, across Sugaw creek, and tying in with First, or Stonewall streets.

TWO PROBLEMS UNSOLVED.

The park board, according to Chairman Charles H. Stone, has enough money to erect play facilities along each side of the strip for use by Negroes living in that vicinity.

Two factors, it was said, are currently blocking construction of the parkway. Right of way privileges have not yet been accorded by the orphanage directors; the city has not agreed to build the connecting link.

That both of the stumbling blocks may be removed soon was seen as a possibility, however. Working on the theory that if rights of way were available, the city would approve the plan, park officials are readying a strong plea for presentation at the Thompson Orphanage board meeting in January.

HAVE 5-ACRE PARK.

Meanwhile, of the city's 10 parks only one—the Morgan park in the Cherryville sector—is available for Negro recreation. Comprising five acres of land, the park includes a softball field; a miniature playground space with giant stride, swings, and sand box; one volley ball court; and one deck tennis court. Total value is less than $6,000, compared with the entire system's $500,000 worth.

Not in use, having been condemned as unfit, is the 16-acre Fairview park in the Biddleville section, valued at around $1,000.

With nearly-adequate land space but lacking money for maintenance and development, the present park commission is making an effort to proceed with a long-range program designed to provide recreational outlets to meet the city's future needs.

Currently up for council approval is a proposal to purchase around 11 acres of land lying along Sugaw creek midway between the Dil- worth and Myers Park sectors—the old polo grounds owned by Smith Medlin and offered to the commission for $3,000—and to accept as a gift an adjoining 17 acres offered by Herman A. Moore.

Flack indicated that he thought the purchase a wise one, although it seems probable that development of the park will have to await more funds. The land, he pointed out is flat, underlain by drain tile, and well adapted to park conversion.

Shown the site yesterday, Mr.

Charlotte, N. C. News
June 9, 1941

Negro Recreational Center Is Planned

Plans for development of a Negro recreational center off Pearl Street, in the heart of the Brooklyn Negro quarter, are now under consideration and may be fully discussed at a meeting of the Park and Recreation Commission tomorrow at 4:30 P. M., Charles H. Stone, chairman, announced today.

A proposal of the Charlotte Civitan Club, which recently launched a program of a Negro boys' club to co-operate with the Park Board in the development of a much needed recreational center has been presented and a report on the preliminaries will doubtless be made tomorrow, Mr. Stone said.

PLAN BUILDING

Tentative plans of the Civitan Club call for construction of a recreational building that will be available for use by the Negro boys' club. Other facilities of the area, such as a wading pool for smaller children, and recreational equipment would be available for general use, it was said.

About an acre and a quarter of land, now owned by the Thompson Orphanage, has been inspected as a possible site for the proposed center but Mr. Stone said today that no formal negotiations have been started with Orphanage officials for acquisition of the property. That will come later, Mr. Stone said, if and when the board reaches an approving decision.

Plans for a supervised recreational program at all of the city's parks and playgrounds this Summer will also be discussed at the Park Board meeting tomorrow afternoon, Mr. Stone said.

Detailed plans for this program, with leadership from the Park Board as well as from the WPA recreational project have been prepared by Marvin Ray, recreation superintendent, and these, Mr. Stone said, will be presented for the Board's consideration.

AWAIT REPORT

Mr. Stone was also expecting Mr. Ray to have a complete report of the activities for the information of the board members.

It is planned to have supervised play at the following centers: Independence Park, Cordelia Park, Wesley Heights playground; Harding High School; Glenwood playground, Piedmont Courts, Piedmont Junior High School; Sunshine School, and Legion Memorial Stadium, where special events, such as boxing, and amateur shows would be staged on certain nights, and a musical program on Sundays at twilight.

Supervised programs are also scheduled at the following Negro centers: Morgan, Second Ward High School, Biddleville School, West Charlotte, Fairview Homes, and Irwin Mission.

Asheville, N. C. Times
August 23, 1941

RIVERVIEW PARK

In the list of Asheville's park improvements approved by the Raleigh and Washington offices of WPA, it is to be hoped that the omission of Riverview Park for Negroes is simply an oversight.

Surely the investment well begun by the city on this project near the end of Walton street is not to be abandoned—although the appearance of the park today suggests the first stages of dissolution.

The Negroes are making some use of the park in its incompleted condition. There are tennis courts and equipment for some other games, under shelter or outdoors. There is a small—and muddy—wading pool; there is no swimming pool; there are no lights in the park; the entrance road is of rutted red clay; the weeds abound.

For so many years did Asheville ignore the question of parks and recreation centers for the Negroes—and virtually the whole of the white population stood by, consenting to the neglect which ought not to have existed—so long did this habit last that it became ingrained.

In the last two years, particularly, the City Government and the public mind both have awakened to their duty to a dependent race whose lot is cast here with the white man, for good or ill. There has been awakening to the opportunity to use social resources, physical and other, for the betterment of youth, especially, of both races. And all this leads, or should, to the conclusion that the good beginnings of parks and recreation places for Negroes will not be forgotten now in the program of Asheville's future.

Charlotte, N. C. Observer
November 12, 1941

Park Board and Negroes.

To The Observer:

We note that plans are being made for development of a park and recreational area in the Sugar Creek section. This project is favored by Mr. Stone, chairman of the Parks and Recreation in the city of Charlotte, and no doubt the city will find enough money somewhere to equip a decent park there.

Before very long Charlotte will be adequately equipped with parks and recreational facilities for its citizens. These things, you know, do much in helping to occupy the idle time of the youngsters and hence divert their attention from activities which lead to crime—did we say adequate recreational facilities for all of Charlotte's citizens? —we do not mean that all. There are 35,000 citizens of Charlotte for whom Charlotte boasts only one poorly equipped play ground which is valued at $6,000, while the total worth of Charlotte's recreational facilities is rated at $500,000. These 35,000 citizens of Charlotte, however, happen to be Negroes.

For the benefit of those whose mathematics is a little weak, we wish to state that the valuation of recreational facilities for Negroes in Charlotte is exactly 1.2 per cent of the total worth, whereas it is considered that the Negro population of Charlotte is approximately 33 per cent. We wonder if the Parks and Recreations Board can remember the promise which they made to a committee from the Negro Citizens' League two years ago. We hope that their memories are not so poor nor their sense of justice so out of plumb that they will advocate further expansion of recreational facilities for the white people before something is done to alleviate the depressing condition among Negroes. Negroes were solemnly promised the development of the Fairview Swimming pool and play ground at a cost of several thousand dollars during the summer of 1940, but not one thing has been accomplished in this direction.

Can it be explained how a commission with any sense of justice or equity possibly go further in its development of parks and play grounds for the white population, regardless of the bargain, when at present 98.8 per cent of al lthe recreational facilities in Charlotte are for white people and one-third of the population has next to absolutely nothing?

C. E. BOULWARE.

Winston Salem, N. C. Sentinel
February 9, 1941

Negro Park Work Advances

Although an engineer's imagination is needed to fully visualize the completed park, these scenes taken yesterday on the Negro Recreation center in the Kimberley Park section indicate that a lot of work has been done. Here is a view of the extension of Pittsburgh avenue, running almost through the middle of the center, which connects with Twenty - Second Street school will have two shelter buildings, two ovens, a skating oval, walks, horseshoe-pitching boxes and improvements to the swimming pool. According to C. W. Rawlings, county WPA superintendent, $73,055 kill be divided among the three centers in this manner: Kimberley, $30,103; Fourteenth Street school, $11,009; Happy Hill, $24,907.
street.

Completed, the center will contain a baseball diamond, the three shelter buildings, all of which will be furnished with ovens, horseshoe pitching boxes, and winding trails through a beautiful landscape. Duplicate plans have been made for the Happy Hill center, which will be built around Salem Creek, while the center at Fourteenth

Charlotte, N. C., News
February 2, 1941

To Discuss Play Center

New Facilities Asked At Negro Park

Consideration will be given to plans for construction of a community center, with gymnasium at the Fairview Negro Park, at a meeting of the Board of Recreation Commission, scheduled for Tuesday night.

Marvin Ray, recreation superintendent, said yesterday that the question of improvement at Fairview Park will doubtless be discussed at the Tuesday night meeting.

Effort will be made to obtain WPA assistance in remodeling the old filtration plant of the city water department into a usable community center, with gymnasium, auditorium, stage and game rooms.

A swimming pool is also being sought but Mr. Ray said that he is not sure that both the pool and the remodeling can be carried out simultaneously.

Tarboro, N. C., Southerner
December 5, 1941

NEGRO PROJECT STARTS TUESDAY

Great, New Negro Recreational Center in East Tarboro to Be Started Tuesday With WPA Labor.

The new negro recreational park of several acres, located in East Tarboro, will be started on Tuesday of this week, Mr. Pierce, WPA recreational head from Durham said yesterday on an official visit to Tarboro.

The project has been under advisement for sometime but was delayed in starting due to the labor element, and also to the fact that it was necessary for the City of Tarboro to accept the land so that WPA labor could be used.

The City of Tarboro at the last commissioners' meeting agreed to accept the deed of land given in fee simple through the generosity of Senator W. G. Clark. The city attorney, Mr. Lyn Bond, ruled the city could accept it, and help with the project.

Under the present plans the new recreational center, to be used exclusively for negroes, will be started on Tuesday when 16 WPA workers will be transferred here to clear off the land donated by Senator Clark.

Mr. J. C. Martin, city superintendent, is enthusiastic about the project and with the help of Mr. Red Harper and other city employees, streets will be laid out leading to and from the project. The plan for the recreational project itself includes only at this time a baseball field, a football field, tennis courts, softball field.

When funds are found available bleachers will be built around the various athletic field activities, and later on it is hoped that a negro community house, with gymnasium, stage, etc., may be built so that large groups may be entertained with indoor sports, dancing, plays, etc.

At this time, however, the plans include only the cleaning off of the field, the laying out of the various activity games, as baseball, football, softball and tennis. Later it is hoped others may be added.

The Negro Civic Forum and the Negro Defense Council, of which F. D. Wharton is president of both, have appointed a negro committee of their members to work with the city, WPA and their white friends in making this recreational park possible. They approved the site as selected.

It is the plan to cut streets through the Henry Johnston field to the recreational project, and these new blocks laid out in the field will later be offered for sale as building lots. It is hoped that eventually a new negro development may spring up around the recreational project, the athletic fields and the soon to be built community house. All lots facing the community recreational project will be offered to negroes at greatly lower prices with the hope that they will buy and build their own homes facing the recreational project. This is being done with the knowledge that if the negroes have their own homes facing the project the activities of the place will be properly supervised at all times.

Local white and negro people are invited to visit the project after it starts on Tuesday, which will be located between Baker and East avenue and Battle avenue and East avenue, on a piece of property approximately 400 by 800 feet.

Morganton, N. C., News-Herald
March 18, 1941

Property Offered To Town For Playground If Board Gets Other

WHISENANT LAND WOULD BE GIVEN

Anonymous Citizens Make Offer If Council Will Buy Drexel Tract.

Anonymous donors, interested in the proposed recreation program, have offered to purchase and give to the town the Whisenant property for development as a playground for Negroes, if the town will acquire and develop the Drexel property as a playground for white children.

First announcement of the offer was made by Frank C. Patton, who said he could not divulge the names of "certain civic-minded citzens" who had authorized the statement.

The Whisenant property, lying between North Greene and Bouchelle streets, would represent a gift of approximately $3,000, a valuation placed upon the 17 acres which a recreation committee's report regards as the most suitable site in town for a playground for Negroes.

The conditions for the acceptance of the gift are that the town board acquire the seven-acre tract near the Drexel Furniture company and develop it as a playground and that the Whisenant property, given by the donors, be also developed.

The Drexel Furniture company, it had been earlier stated, had agreed to deed the tract to the town on condition that the road running through its property be re-routed. The town board stated last week that the matter is being studied to determine what the closing of the road would entail.

The gift offer, affecting two of the three specific projects recommended by the special recreation committee after its recent survey, was announced by Mr. Patton at a meeting of the Kiwanis club Friday night.

The club passed a resolution heartily endorsing the committee's report, which recommends development of the two tracts as playgrounds and the Tannery Grove property as a central park with swimming pool.

Mr. Patton introduced to the club at the request of Kiwanis directors a resolution urging immediate action by the town board.

The resolution follows:

WHEREAS, a Committee has been appointed, charged with the responsibility of making an investigation and report of its findings relative to a system for parks and play grounds for the Town of Morganton; and

WHEREAS, the said Committee has now made an exhaustive study and filed its report with the Town Council of the Town of Morganton, which report has heretofore been published; and

WHEREAS, the establishment of a system of parks and play grounds has been an objective of this club for several years past; and

WHEREAS, it has been made to appear that certain civic-minded citizens have expressed the willingness to buy and donate the lands known as the Whisenant property for development of a park and play ground for colored children, in the event the said Town Council is willing to accept the Drexel Furniture Company Project and develop it into a suitable park and play ground for children in that vicinity.

NOW, THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Morganton Kiwanis club heartily endorses the report of said committee and commends it for serious study on the part of the Town Council of the Town of Morganton, and especially urges the Town Council to take immediate action upon the tract of land known as the Drexel Furniture Company Project for a park and playground for children in the vicinity of the depot, the Cotton Mill, and the Drexel Furniture Company, and that the Whisenant property be accepted and developed into a park and play ground for colored children.

Charlotte, N. C., News
March 21, 1941

City Will Supervise Play Areas

Parks Commission To Assume Duties

The Charlotte Parks and Recreation Commission has made arrangements to supervise the playgrounds at the Piedmont Courts white and Fairview Homes Negro low-rent housing projects of the Charlotte Housing Authority and to conduct pre-school instruction for children at both projects who have not reached school age.

This information was made public today by Harold J. Dillehay, executive director of the Housing Authority. The City of Charlotte has a co-operation agreement with the Housing Authority one of the major provisions of which is that it will supervise the parks and playgrounds on the Authority's projects.

There are two large play areas on each of the Housing Authority's projects. One of the play areas on each is fully equipped with swings, slides, see-saws, etc. The other is an area for playing baseball, football and such outdoor games.

TWO AT EACH

The Parks and Recreation Commission has arranged for one man and one woman to be assigned to each of the Housing Authority Projects to supervise play. This will be done through the co-operation of the WPA recreation project.

This program of outdoor play supervision will begin on April 15, Mr. Dillehay said. It will be under the general direction of Marvin Rea, superintendent of the Parks and Recreation Commission.

The pre-school classes will begin immediately in both projects. These classes also will be conducted as a part of the WPA program.

The WPA is co-operating to the fullest extent with the Housing Authority, Mr. Dillehay said. Adult education classes have been organized at both Piedmont Courts and Fairview Homes.

At Fairview Homes, classes in cooking, decorating, English arithmetic, spelling and other practical subjects have been and are being given. These classes have been most popular with the tenants and have been well attended, Mr. Dillehay said.

At Piedmont Courts classes which already have begun are cooking and decorating. The Piedmont Courts Project just was opened on Feb. 1, whereas the Fairview Homes project has been open since last July.

The WPA also furnished a librarian for the branch of the Charlotte Public Library which has been opened at Piedmont Courts. This library is open every day during the week except Sunday.

Black Dispatch
Oklahoma City, Okla

They Were Murdered, Not Drowned

Two youths, both Negroes, have been drowned in the past few weeks. One youth, a crack football player on the Douglass high school team, met death while swimming near Jones. Another little girl met her death last week when she accidentally waded out too far into the swollen waters of the North Canadian.

On its face these two news items will appear to people outside Oklahoma City as nothing more than unpleasant incidents happening in the every-day life of Oklahoma City's 20,000 Negroes, but to the black citizens of the capital city these two untimely deaths present an ugly picture relating to municipal delinquincy.

Oklahoma City is one of the riches cities in America. Oil has in the past few years converted this metropolis into a community of opulency and unheard of wealth. Quite recently the park superintendent, Donald Gordon, was elected city manager of a great southwestern city because of the unusual park development which grew under his guidance and control. Fine lakes and swimming pools are centered in these parks for white children and white children only.

The two Negro children drowned in the past few weeks were hunting a place to recreate out in the rural sections of the county because Oklahoma City has refused to provide swimming pools and other types of recreation for Negro children. In a certain sense the city is responsible for these untimely deaths.

Oklahoma City has invested more than six million dollars in parks for white people. In the 1,702 acres reported in the 1935 report of the park board, the city had developed the following parks for whites: Canyon, 67 acres; Lincoln, 620; Northwest, 160; Southwest, 160; Trosper, 620.

In addition to this the city operates within the city limits thirty smaller parks and playgrounds for white children. In other words, the city has developed and improved 2,200 acres of park property for white children while Negro children must climb off steep banks into the angry, uncontrolled waters of rural streams during these torrid, sweltering summer days.

In the light of these facts we cannot see how Oklahoma City can be charged with anything less than the murder of these two Negro children. More than half a million dollars has been taken from the Booker T. Washington (Negro) playground in oil bounties, and this "blood money" was converted into white parks for white children. Truly the life blood of these drowned Negro youths drenches and stains the portals of the city hall.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
May 3, 1941

MAYOR SEEKS USE OF HARMON FIELD

Board Asked to Permit U. S. to Put Army Camp on Playground Site

Mayor Henry W. Lockwood yesterday moved for early action on the request of army and city leaders that Harmon field be used for an army recreational camp during the national emergency.

Mayor Lockwood telegraphed the Harmon foundation, in New York, which controls the property and which has set it aside for use solely as a negro playground. During the day he received a reply that the matter could not be presented to the Harmon board before Monday.

The mayor sent this telegram, explaining the plan to the Harmon board:

"Army inspection board under General Ulio has surveyed Harmon field in Charleston and finds same desirable as emergency recreation site for troops on furlough as only site large enough in city. Under arrangements of your foundation this land was set aside for use as negro playground but city has since constructed additional negro playground in same block and if army can have permission to use site during emergency it will be most helpful."

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
May 11, 1941

Negro Playground

To The Uews and Courier:

I was greatly impressed with Mrs. Walsh's letter protesting the taking from the negroes the use of Harmon field, to lend it for a recreational center for white soldiers. This seems to me to be such a shocking miscarriage of justice that I am thankful to learn that the protest has been widespread, not only among our negro welfare workers, but among a large group of white citizens. I have always thought that the playground and recreational facilities for our negro children and youth were altogether inadequate and out of proportion in equipment and advantages to those for the white children; especially when this latter class, to a great extent, includes the "privileged class"; whereas the negro youth of ten times come from very poor homes and are in far greater need of playground advantages.

Harmon Field, as I understand, was given for the use of the negro race, and to take it away from them to give to a race so much more blessed in such advantages, would be like the rich man killing his poor neighbor's ewe lamb to entertain his guest, as told by the prophet Nathan to King David.

Some years ago the Old Folks' Home for indigent negroes was splendidly located in the western part of the city near the Ashley river, where their friends could easily call on them; now these old negroes (many of whom have seen faithful service) have been shunted across town to near the navy yard, where their friends have to spend nearly an hour on the bus to reach them. I hope the injustice of taking Harmon Field from them has been averted.

Greenville, S. C. News
May 30, 1941

Lions To Establish Negro Park In City

A small park and playground for negroes of the Bucknertown section off Rutherford street will be established and equipped by the Greenville Lions club, officials announced yesterday.

A committee headed by J. Marion Sanders will be in charge of the project. The city will be called upon to help clear the land and a government agency will be asked to furnish supervision. The club will purchase complete playground equipment.

Columbia, S. C. State
July 10, 1941

Negro Lifeguards At Jackson Named

The first water-safety instructors course to be offered Negro troops at any army post in the United States was completed this week at Fort Jackson under the direction of William Hayes, field reprsentative of the American Red Cross, sponsor of the safety program.

Five qualified water-safety instructors are: Cpl. John Quincy Adams, Service company, station complement; Pvt. Gilbert DeGroat, Two Hundred and Fortieth Quartermaster regiment; Pvt. Robert Leon Fairrow, Ninety-first Quartermaster company; Pvt. Cooper Hagan, Sixty-seventh Quartermaster battalion; Pvt. Amos Williams, Jr., Two Hundred and Fortieth Quartermaster regiment.

Pvt. George R. Hoosier, Sixty-seventh Quartermaster battalion, qualified as a senior life saver.

Columbia, S. C. State
July 13, 1941

AROUND

NEGRO PLAYGROUNDS

Palmetto Leader, Columbia.

We need four playgrounds for Negro children of the city—one in Waverley, one in the western section, one in the northern section, and one in Ward One. We hope the Negro civic organizations will get in on this and present the needs of playgrounds for Negro children while it is in the making.

Columbia, S. C. State
July 21, 1941

Recreation Program Shows Rapid Progress in County

By Abe Fennell

The recreational program for Columbia and Richland county is now in full blast and those in charge are urging parents to send their children to the nearest recreational center so that they may participate in what it is hoped will become a summer-long program another year.

Centers are located at Blythewood, Eastover, Olympia, Dreher high, Hand high and Eau Claire for whites and at Howard school and Benedict-Allen court for Negroes.

Interest and attendance has shown a steady increase in the city since the start a week ago, despite unusually bad weather. The county centers opened Monday and from reports already received from them the children—and adults—are taking to the program splendidly.

J. K. Henry and Mrs. Christine Ruff are supervisors in charge with Miss Frances Jeffares, Miss Annette McCollum Mrs. T. J. Price, Arvid Czarnitzski, Miss Caroline Schiffley Gilbert Barr and Miss Mary Ellen Whetsell in charge of the centers for whites. LeRoy Scott and LeRoy Shelton are handling the Negro centers.

In addition to the regular recreational programs plans call for community activities, such as community sings, during the remainder of the summer.

The recreational committee in charge, working without compensation and with the sole idea in mind of keeping children off the streets and out of trouble, is extremely anxious to get the support and co-operation of the public so that the program, if successful, may be expanded next summer.

Sesqui Park Busy—

The remainder of the summer will be a busy time for Sesquicentennial park, located some 15 miles northeast of Columbia on US highway No. 1.

The annual rodeo sponsored by the Richland Game and Fish association, the park-sponsored state swimming meet, a horseshoe pitching tournament and other events are on the program between now and September 1.

The swimming meet has been held, in the past, in Greenville, but is being moved to Columbia because of its more central location.

In addition, the park daily takes care of hundreds of bathers, among them 100 or more children who are transported to and from the park at moderate cost. In addition to teaching the children how to swim they are taught handicrafts, nature study, etc., by competent instructors.

Picnicing facilities are also available and this, with the natural beauty of the place, attracts many more.

The park is under the direction of the state forestry service, which operates parks throughout the state and is doing an excellent job.

Doghouse Blues—

At this writing Cap Crossley, manager of the Columbia Reds, is still in the Sally league doghouse for his part in the argument between himself and Umpire Ruff last Friday night. Cap had a $50 fine slapped on him and thus far it hasn't been paid, Red Prexy Blue having instructed Cap not to pay.

Cap therefore, after his team has taken its infield practice, is barred from the field—and dugout—for the rest of the evening. Monday night Cap watched the game from the door of the dressing room back of the dugout and directed the team from there.

The system worked beautifully Monday night, but whether the arrangement will continue satisfactory no one knows.

Dr. E. M. Wilder, president of the Sally league, levied the fine Sunday, but Umpires Harvin and McGowan, who came here Sunday for the Greenville-Columbia series, arrived too late to get the notification that they were to collect the fine or keep Cap off the field until after Sunday's games.

So it has developed into a war of nerves with both sides insisting they won't give in. The next step, however, seems to be up to Prexy Blue of the Reds.

New Outfielder-Pitcher

The Reds will have a new outfielder and pitcher come Monday when Joe Bob Mitchell, the old Auburn football and baseball star, joins the club from Cordele of the Georgia-Florida league.

Some of the fans will recall Joe Bob playing with the Augusta Tigers a few years back when he hit well over .300 and was a pretty fair pitcher on occasion. Joe Bob is one of the leading hitters in the Georgia-Florida and his last two hill performances were shutouts. Several other Sally league clubs had been trying to get Mitchell, so the Reds, insuring for the race down the stretch, got there first. The outfield situation just now is excellent, but Buddy Day is slated for his draft call before the end of the season, according to present indications.

Mitchell certainly won't hurt the Reds at the plate and should be some help on the hill when needed

50-1941

SOUTH CAROLINA

New York Age
New York, N. Y

Protest Plan To Turn Negro Children's Playground Into Camp For White Soldiers

CHARLESTON, S. C.—Citizens of this city are aroused over the request by General Ulio that the community's only playground for Negro children be turned over to the Army for a week-end camp for white soldiers.

Maintained by funds from the Harmon Foundation, because the city of Charleston had provided no playgrounds for Negro children the playground was deeded by the foundation to the city with the provision that it maintained perpetually as a playground for colored youngsters

Henry L. Stimson, secretary of War has been informed of the situation by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People which joins other organizations and individuals in protesting against the grant of the general's request.

The NAACP warned that a violation of the contract between the city and the Harmon Foundation would lower the already low morale of Negro Americans because of widespread discrimination in the defense program and that it would subject decent colored women and girls to insult and attack from soldiers quartered so close to the homes of respectable colored citizens of Charleston.

Acting on information that Mr. W. Burke Harmon would wire the mayor of Charleston refusing his consent to the transfer the NAACP vigorously urged that the War Department ask the general to withdraw his request.

Charleston, S. C. News & Courier
May 23, 1941

New Negro Playground To Open

A playground for negro children soon will be set up at the northeast corner of Calhoun and Washington streets, and its administration will be turned over to Miss Corrine V. Jones, supervisor of city playgrounds.

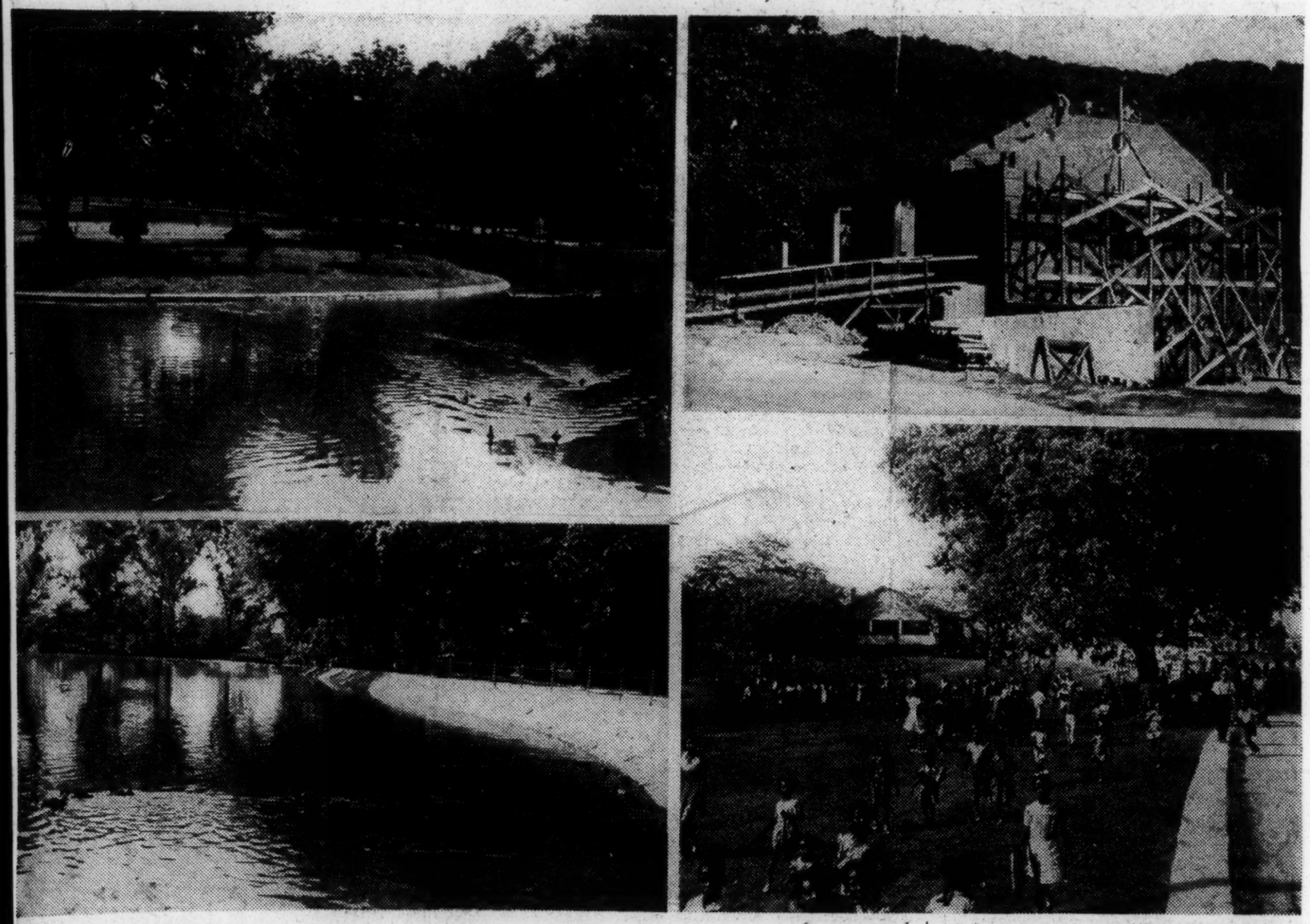
Arrangements for the transfer of the property, belonging to the Housing Authority of the City of Charleston, to the playground department will be effected within a few weeks. The location for the playground was called ideal because it is midway between two housing projects for negroes, the Wragg and Anson Borough homes. Several years ago, the property was used as a playground for negro children, but it was closed down when personnel was curtailed.

Miss Jones announced yesterday that city playgrounds will assume summer schedules June 9. Playgrounds will open daily at 9 a. m., and will remain open until noon. They will reopen at 3 p. m., and remain in operation until dusk.

50-1941 TENNESSEE

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
May 25, 1941

VIEWS OF THE EAST LAKE, RIDGEDALE, LINCOLN PLAY CENTERS



—Times Staff Photos.

The left panel above shows two views of East Lake park. Eleven wild ducks inhabit the lake, which has recently been rebuilt and beautified. At upper right is a view of the Community center being built in Ridgedale, and lower right shows a view of Lincoln park operated for Negroes. The picture of Lincoln park was taken this week sometime in advance of the opening of the parks and playgrounds, yet wide use is being made of it by colored school children and others.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Daily Times
June 4, 1941

COLORED CHILDREN TO GET FREE SWIM

Lincoln Park Pool Will Be Opened Next Tuesday to Playground Youths

Colored children of the eight city playgrounds will be admitted for free swims in the Lincoln park $60,000 pool, beginning next Tuesday, it was announced yesterday by Hosea Love, manager.

This concession has been provided in previous years for children accompanied by their playground directors between the hours of 10 and 12 a.m. Tuesday mornings throughout the summer will be featured as a field day at the park, and will share in popularity, with family day each Friday, when the whole family can swim in the pool for 10 cents each all day.

Saturday has been set aside as soldier's day, Love stated, when the colored soldiers from Fort Oglethorpe, or at home on leave, may make use of the pool free.

The pool opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 11 p.m., except in the case of private parties and picnics which can be arranged in advance.

Five hundred were registered as patrons Monday and yesterday, and a total of 5,000 enjoyed the facilities of the dancing pavilion, the three tennis courts, the softball and baseball games and the other concessions provided by the recreation department.

Jones stated that his staff, in cooperation with other civic organizations, have launched a campaign to invite Negro excursionists and sightseers from nearby towns to make the park their headquarters for one-day outings. City church congregations are being sent letters urging their picnics and outings be held at the park, and clubs and civic organizations of the colored race are also being contacted in this regard.

Chris Morton and Joe Hill, are employed as life guards at the pool, and classes in Red Cross life guard training are being arranged under the supervision of Marjorie Parks, attendant. Dancing in the pavilion is held Monday and Thursday nights with the Silver Moon orchestra rendering music.

Knoxville, Tenn., Journal
July 23, 1941

All-Activities Day To Be Held On August 5-6

All-Activities Days, in which more than 1500 of Knoxville's playground champions will be eligible to participate, will be sponsored this year by The Knoxville Journal Goodfellows Club and the City Recreation Bureau.

Events for Negro children will be held at Cal Johnson Park on August 5, while those for white children will be held at Chilhowee Park on August 6.

Winners in the All-Activities Day events will be playground city champions for 1941

Director John E. Gronseth, of the Recreation Bureau, yesterday said 820 white boys, 380 white girls, 246 Negro boys and 114 Negro girls will be eligible.

Championship ribbons will be awarded winners and runners-up in each of the events.

These awards are to be made by The Journal Goodfellows. Funds from the Journal Popeye Club aluminum sale will be used to defray expenses of the events. From the fund, after the ribbons have been purchased, $50 will be set aside to provide free rides for the youngsters at Chilhowee Park.

The aluminum sale netted $114.57.

The All-Activities Days will be the greatest single day of competitive sports for Knoxville children during the year. These playground champions will compete in 42 various tournaments, with 13 of the tournaments being conducted at the same time.

Champions from the following playgrounds will be entered: Alexander Park, Union Square, John Lee-Volunteer, North Central, Chavannes, Western Heights, Lonsdale, Perkins, Chilhowee and Lockett's with the Dale Avenue Settlement House invited to send its champions.

Negro contestants will be eligible from Cal Johnson, East Fort, College Home-Leslie Street.

Each Park will be allowed to have two contestants in each event.

Among the events to be staged are: horse shoes, ring tennis doubles, paddle tennis doubles, clock golf, tin can alley, croquet, washers, knife baseball, O'Leary, jacks, hopscotch and tether ball.

The tournament will be conducted under rules set down by the City Recreation Bureau in the Playground Game Kit.

Director Gronseth will be in complete charge with Mrs. Kidd P. Warner his assistant. Gordon Bounds will be the announcer and Dorothy Harkleroad the clerk.

Playground leaders who will assist are: Boyd Blackwell, Lloyd Marchant, Katherine Edmonds, B. E. Sharp, Margaret Decker, Allison Dawson, Howard Cox, Roy Walden, Buist Warren, Margaret Salguhter, Clarence King, Mary Louise Black, Mary Louise Galloway, Buena Lous Walters, Mable Needham, Montag D. Poore, Agnes O'Connor Yearwood and Minnie Sharp.

Memphis, Tenn., Com'rcial Appeal
August 21, 1941

PLAYGROUND FESTIVAL WILL BE HELD TODAY

Negro Children To Have Program From 10 To 6 O'Clock

Children of Memphis' negro playgrounds will hold their annual festival from 10 until 6 o'clock today at Lincoln Playground.

Beginning with the athletic program at 10:30 o'clock, the schedule calls for varied events, with the contests divided into age groups.

After games of dodge ball, horse shoes, volley ball, softball, paddle tennis for girls, bound ball and end ball, the group will have lunch, prepared under direction of Eva Donelson and Rubye Woods Jones.

At 2 o'clock judges will decide winners in sand modeling, playground mascots and junior Humane Society scrapbooks and creative play.

Track events for boys and girls will begin at 2 o'clock. Chauncey Barbour will direct the meet.

At 3:30 o'clock one representative from each playground will compete in a safety oratorical contest, to be judged by Sergt. Forrest Mottweiler of the Police Department.

Nashville, Tenn., Banner
September 12, 1941

Playground Program Has Rapid Growth

Nashville's three-year-old Vacant Lot Playground Program has grown to comprise thirty white playgrounds and fourteen for Negro children during the current summer, V. S. Bullard, supervisor, reported to Mayor Thomas L. Cummings and the Board of Public Works today.

Attendance during the summer season totaled approximately 35,600, Bullard reported, and seventy-one workers, many of them college trained young men and women including several high school football coaches, aided Bullard in directing the program of recreation for thousands of underprivileged children.

The program was originated three years ago under Bullard's direction and financed by a special fund obtained from receipts of city licensing of retail liquor stores.

The number of playgrounds available this summer beginning on June 7 were increased from thirty to forty-four and the number of workers was increased from fifty-nine on June 7 to a total of seventy-one.

Women workers held story hours for the younger children and also stimulated interest in numerous games which substantially aided in the program to keep children off Nashville streets.

Supervised activities of the older children included softball, basketball, football, horse shoe pitching, volley ball, badminton, and paddle tennis.

High point of the program was reached by a softball tournament held at the Ft. Negley baseball grounds. Thirty teams comprising approximately 450 boys between the ages of nine and eighteen representing the various playgrounds, participated in the tournament.

Bullard was assisted by Norman Cooper, one of the assistant coaches at Vanderbilt University, as well as several other Vanderbilt athletes. The Eighteenth Avenue Youth Center, the Bethlehem Center, Meharry Medical College, Fisk University and the Andrew Jackson Courts cooperated enthusiastically with the playground program, Bullard reported.

Six city parks and ten school grounds were used by permission of the Board of Park Commissioners and the Board of Education.

Originally planned as a means of providing underprivileged children with recreation centers which would obviate the necessity of their playing in and out of the traffic of city streets, the program has been expanded by Bullard to meet a need for summer recreation for children in most sections of the city under trained supervisors.

It is probable that the program may become a permanent summer arrangement with the possibility that a brief training period for the playground workers before the playgrounds are opened may be set up in order that the program may be planned and coordinated.

Playground equipment left from each summer's program is stored and augmented at the beginning of the new season by new equipment purchased from the accumulation in the special fund.

Bullard has won high praise for himself and his workers for the program from the Humane and Juvenile Court Commission for prevention of juvenile delinquency and from other persons and organizations interested in the work of planned juvenile recreation.

50-1941
Kansas City Call
Kansas City, Mo.

TEXAS

TEXAS TOWN IS PROMISED $75,000 RECREATION PROJECT

MAR 14 1941

50

SULPHUR SPRINGS, Texas. — (ANP) — This small community located in the extreme northeastern section of Texas, is about to get a $75,000 recreation project which is to be one of the finest in the state Sponsored by city and county authorities, it is to be used exclusively by colored citizens of the county and city.

At a conference between officials of city and county, businessmen of the city and colored representatives, all expressed themselves as being in favor of the project. Final papers were to be signed at a conference scheduled for this coming week.

Originator of the idea was W. B. Jones, principal of the colored school. He formed an organization of citizens into a pacific club, caused them to buy 8 1-2 acres of high and dry land, gave it to the county in order to have this site for the project, the first of this size and magnitude in this section of the state. A recently built subdivision for Negroes has been opened and most of the people live in this section of the town and all own their own homes. There are two excellent roads leading to the division.

According to plans exhibited by Architect Hoke Smith of Dallas, the project will contain an auditorium, football field, cinder track, tennis fields, baseball diamond, picnic grounds and adequate parking space for cars. The auditorium is to contain a basketball court, showers and restrooms for men and women.

MAR 14 1941

"The Negro people of the county are intensely interested in the project," enthusiastically declared Principal Jones. "When it is finished it will be the finest public project ever built for Negroes in the state and will do much to keep down conflicts between Negroes and whites."

The leading banker of the town, George Prim, president of the State bank, white, told a cheering all-colored audience that "regardless of other projects we shall get behind this one for our colored citizens. It is very much needed and will do much to lessen juvenile delinquency.

50-1941

Norfolk, Va. Pilot
March 26, 1941

Playground For Negroes Is Authorized

City Council Also Acts to Refund $476,000 Bond Issue

Session Busy One

Municipal Airport Road To Be Widened; Requests Reflect Growing Norfolk

A resolution providing for a refunding bond issue of $476,000 yesterday was put on its first reading by the City Council, which also appropriated $1,750 for the purchase of land to make it possible to open a new playground for Negroes in what is known on the map as Newtons Creek boulevard in Brambleton.

At the same time, the council appropriated $615 for purchasing rights of way to make it possible for the widening of the road from the Water Works road to the Norfolk Municipal Airport and $300 for the purchase of three acres of land for the protection of city water shed property in the airport area.

The refunding bond issue is similar to the $572,000 issue sold by the city last September and on which the city realized a premium of $35,000 on three per cent bonds. This $35,000 is to be applied to old bonds now due or soon to fall due and the $476,000 in refunding bonds will be used to retire this amount of old bonds, which have been bearing interest at the rate of four and one-half per cent. The old bonds were issued prior to 1916 and no adequate sinking fund was set up for them.

The letter from City Manager Charles B. Borland asking for the resolution providing for the bond issue stated that it provided that the bonds shall bear interest at the rate of two and one-quarter, and two and one-half, two and three-quarters or three per cent and that "It is my thought to let the bidder specify the rate of interest, the bonds, however, in no event to be sold at less than par."

Low Interest Rate Sought

Colonel Borland told the council he hoped to get a bid with a very low interest rate, rather than a higher interest rate with a high premium for the bonds. The refunding is expected to save the city about $20,000 a year in interest. The new bonds are to be payable $47,000 per year in each of the years 1953 to 1956, inclusive, and $48,000 in each of the years from 1957 to 1962, inclusive.

In connection with the purchase of 1.2 acres of land for the Negro playground, Colonel Borland told the council the city already owned a sizable area lying in the area, but its shape and size prevented its proper development. The purchase of the additional land would make the other available and supply a much-needed space in a thickly populated Negro section, Colonel Borland said. The property is owned by the James E. Etheridge Estate, is assessed at $1,050 and taxes owed on the property amount to $595.80. The property had been offered for $1,750, which was appropriated for the purchase on Colonel Borland's recommendation. Of course, the city will immediately get back the taxes due on the property.

Memorial For Taylor

The council also adopted a resolution honoring the memory of the late Walton Robert Lawson Taylor, Sr., a member of the council from September 1, 1930, until August 31, 1938, and mayor of the city from December, 1933, until he was retired from the council.

The State Highway Commission is ready to widen the airport road, from the Water Works road to the airport, and is awaiting only the city's action in acquiring rights of way to make this possible. Yesterday's $615 appropriation will bring this about at once and the road will be widened for three lanes of traffic.

A question of rezoning certain business property on East Ocean View avenue, at Warwick street and Beaumont street, along with a suggestion from Councilman Roberts that the question of business zoning for all of East Ocean View avenue be reviewed, was sent back to the City Manager and City Planning Commission for a complete study and review of the subject and a later report to the council. The City Planning Commission and Acting City Manager W. H. Taylor, 3d, previously had recommended that "business islands" at East Ocean View avenue and Warwick street and Beaumont street be zoned for residences.

Last December, Councilman Worsham asked that a proposal for the renaming of Twenty-sixth street to Lafayette boulevard be referred to the City Manager. A report was filed yesterday recommending against the proposal on the ground that the changing of street numbering would be confusing, etc. Twenty-sixth street runs into Lafayette boulevard at the Tweny-sixth street bridge.

The council approved for an ordinance a recommendation for the rezoning of lots 27 and 28, north side of West Thirty-eighth street, between Bowden's Ferry road and Bluestone avenue, from Residence B to Business A classification. A public hearing had been called for yesterday, but no one appeared to object to the change. Similar action was taken in the case of recommendation for a similar zoning change for the southwest corner of Willoughby and Rose avenue.

An appropriation of $2,500 was voted for the installation of a sewer line along a portion of Granby street abutting property owned by the American Home Improvement Company, Inc., and the Housing Engineering Corporation. The companies are to reimburse the city for this expenditure. A business development is planned at this location, Granby street and Sewalls Point road.

Theatre Permit Asked

A public hearing, on a date to be announced, was called on a question of a permit, asked by Jeff Hofheimer, to operate a motion picture theatre at this location. Similar action was taken on an application for a permit by the Hampton Corporation and the Academy Stores Corporation to operate a motion picture theatre on the west side of Granby street near Sewalls Point road. If both permits are granted, this will mean two new theatres near this corner. It was stated yesterday, that the owners plan parking space for about 700 cars for the former proposed theatre.

The council authorized the city clerk to write H. W. Phillips, who recently offered his services in seeking a new franchise with the Virginia Electric & Power Co., that the city did not need nor desire his services, and to return to Mr. Phillips his letter on the subject.

It was reported to the council that the power company's gross bus receipts for February totalled $85,238.06 and that the city's share, of $4,261.90, had been received.

No New Bridge Now

The council approved a recommendation by the City Manager that the city could not, at this time, afford to construct a new bridge at Cottage Toll road and the Lafayette River, a short distance north of Willow Wood drive, as had been requested. Colonel Borland reported that the construction work would cost about $30,000 and that the city could not afford the expenditure at this time, in view of the fact that the bridge there now is adequate for practically all needs. The file was ordered closed.

An appropriation of $525 was voted for the installation of water mains to serve property along Maycox and Burleigh avenues, Academy Terrace, where Anderson Associates, Inc., had applied for the work to be done. The total cost of the project is to be $950, with the company to pay $425 of the cost on the Morningside Plan, refunds to be made to the company at the rate of $75 for each new home erected on the streets.

As approved for ordinance last week, the council appropriated $1,000 for laying a water main and installing a fire hydrant on Hughes avenue, South Norfolk, and a bond issue was authorized. In like manner, $2,000 was appropriated for the purchase and installation of a giant water meter for the addition to the Naval Operating Base and Naval Air Station.

Sewer Line Authority

An ordinance was adopted authorizing the execution of a contract between the city and A. Bell for the operation of the recreation pier beneath the Hampton boulevard bridge.

A letter was received from the Larchmont Parent-Teacher Association approving a recent proposal for licenses and registration of bicycles. The letter was referred to the City Manager, who already has the proposal under study.

H. P. Humphries headed a group of petitioners asking the council for the curbing and guttering of the 3300 block of Lyons avenue. This was referred to the City Manager for an investigation and report. Mayor Wood told the group he felt sure something could be done to "give you some relief" on the street, which was described as badly in need of the requested improvements.